

# What you need to know as a Sturgeon Guard volunteer ...

## GUARD SHIFTS

All shifts are from 10 a.m. to 7 p.m. Call the Sturgeon Guard Hotline (920.303.5444) late afternoon the day prior to your shift to learn whether guards are needed. If sturgeon are NOT actively spawning, your shift will be canceled, and you will have an opportunity to reschedule if another shift is available.

## DAY OF YOUR SHIFT

**CHECK IN:** All guards are required to check in at Sturgeon Camp prior to starting their shifts. We recommend arriving between 9:15 and 9:30 a.m. That will give you plenty of time to check in, learn about your assigned site, ask any questions you might have, enjoy a continental breakfast, pack a lunch and then travel to the spawning site. Sturgeon Camp is located at N7851 County Road M, about 6 miles north of Shiocton. During check in you will receive:

- A reflective vest to help identify you as a Sturgeon Guard. (The vest will need to be turned in at the end of your shift.)
- A hat, courtesy of Sturgeon for Tomorrow for you to wear and to keep as a “Thank You” for your efforts.
- A packet of educational information including an FAQ to help you answer questions that spectators might ask.
- A map of your assigned site.
- Other material as appropriate.

**SITE ASSIGNMENTS:** You will be assigned a spawning location during check-in. We do not know in advance where the sturgeon will be spawning because they are constantly moving upstream. Warden rovers and Fisheries staff identify spawning locations daily.

**WHAT TO WEAR/BRING:** Dress appropriately for the weather. Bring a cell phone. Also, feel free to bring lawn or camp chairs so you will not be standing all day. You may also want to bring a book or similar materials to help pass the time during quiet times. Polarized sunglasses – if you have them – will make it easier for you to see sturgeon in the water.

**AT THE SPAWNING SITE:** Spawning sites on public property often attract hundreds of spectators. Your responsibility includes monitoring the activity and educating the public on the uniqueness and value of sturgeon. As an easily identifiable sturgeon guard, you will be approached and asked many questions during your shift. We hope you will enjoy interacting with the public since you are in an ideal situation to add to their knowledge of this unique natural resource. If you observe any significant threats to the spawning fish, you will use your cell phone to report the situation. During your shift you should also:

- Feel free to take breaks. Some sites do not have bathroom facilities, so you may need to drive to a nearby location to access one. Do not hesitate to do so.
- Enjoy the experience! Whether this is your first time guarding and seeing the sturgeon spawn or your 20th, it remains an amazing sight to witness.

**AT THE END OF THE DAY:** You will need to return to Sturgeon Camp to turn in your reflective vest and formally “check out.” **DINNER WILL BE PROVIDED** and we encourage you to stay, enjoy the meal and share your experiences with other guards and DNR staff who are on hand.

## ADDITIONAL THOUGHTS

We ask that guards:

- Leave pets at home.
- Do not fish or take part in similar activities.
- Do not open- or concealed-carry a firearm because of our agreement with the State of Wisconsin’s policies and procedures.

**QUESTIONS?** Please contact the sturgeon guard coordinator at 920-420-1140, [DNRSturgeonGuard@Wisconsin.gov](mailto:DNRSturgeonGuard@Wisconsin.gov)